

Serial No. 08/944,850
Filed: October 6, 1997

groups.

44. A method according to claim 39 wherein said sensor elements comprise oligonucleotides.

45. A method according to claim 39 wherein said first target analyte is an oligonucleotide.

46. A method according to claim 39 wherein prior to said summing, the baseline of said first fluorescent signals are adjusted.

47. A method according to claim 39 wherein the signal-to-noise ratio is increased as a result of said summing.

48. A method according to claim 39 wherein said sensor array comprises a fiber optic bundle. - -

REMARKS

Claims 39-48 are pending. A copy of the currently pending claims is appended hereto. Support for the new claims is found throughout the specification and claims as filed. In particular claim 39 finds support in claims 21 and 26 as filed. In addition, claim 39 finds support at p. 13, line 7. Claim 40 finds support throughout the specification as filed, for example at p. 9, line 14, and p. 12, lines 14-20. Support for claim 41 is found throughout the application and claims as filed. Support for claim 42 is found throughout the application, for example at p. 12, line 5. Support for claim 43 is found at p. 24, line 6. Support for claims 44 and 45 is found in Table IV. Support for claim 46 is found in claim 18 as filed. Support for claim 47 is found in claims 18 and 19 as filed and throughout the specification as filed. Support for claim 48 is found throughout the specification and claims, for example claim 24, as filed.

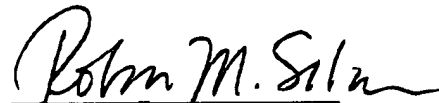
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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and an early notification of such is solicited. Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix: Pending claims

--39. An assay method comprising:

a) providing a sensor array comprising:

- i) at least a first subpopulation comprising first sensor elements; and**
- ii) a second subpopulation comprising second sensor elements;**

b) adding a sample comprising a first target analyte that binds to said first sensor elements;

c) measuring first fluorescent signals of at least two of said sensor elements of said first subpopulation; and

d) summing said first fluorescent signals.

40. A method according to claim 39 further comprising:

b) adding a sample comprising a second target analyte that binds to said second sensor elements;

c) measuring second fluorescent signals of at least two of said sensor elements of said second subpopulation; and

d) summing said second fluorescent signals.

41. A method according to claim 39 wherein said elements comprise beads.

42. A method according to claim 39 wherein said sensor array comprises beads distributed in wells.

43. A method according to claim 39 wherein said sensor elements comprise chemical functional groups.

44. A method according to claim 39 wherein said sensor elements comprise oligonucleotides.

45. A method according to claim 39 wherein said first target analyte is an oligonucleotide.

46. A method according to claim 39 wherein prior to said summing, the baseline of said first fluorescent signals are adjusted.

47. A method according to claim 39 wherein the signal-to-noise ratio is increased as a result of said summing.

48. A method according to claim 39 wherein said sensor array comprises a fiber optic bundle.--

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08/904850
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